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Oceans and the law of the sea

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Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

Summary

The present report, which covers the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, is submitted pursuant to paragraph 351 of General Assembly resolution 71/257, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of that resolution, for consideration at its seventy-second session. It is also being submitted to States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, pursuant to article 319 of the Convention. The present report provides information on major recent developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in particular at the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as within the bodies established by the Convention.

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** The present report contains a summary of the most significant recent developments and selected parts of contributions by relevant agencies, programmes and bodies.

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I. Introduction

1. During the reporting period, awareness increased with regard to the important role of the oceans in the promotion of sustainable development, in the light of the magnitude of the benefits that humankind already derives from the oceans and their resources. At the same time, the profoundly negative impacts of human activities on the world's oceans and their resources have become even more apparent, having been further compounded by the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the oceans. The General Assembly has noted with concern the findings of the first Global Integrated Marine Assessment indicating that the world's oceans are facing major pressures simultaneously with such great impacts that the limits of their carrying capacity are being, or, in some cases, have been reached, and that delays in implementing solutions to the problems that have already been identified as threatening to degrade the world's oceans will lead, unnecessarily, to incurring greater environmental, social and economic costs.[1] Accordingly, there is an urgent need to take effective measures to maintain or restore the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans, so as to ensure the continued availability of the benefits currently derived from the oceans for future generations.

2. In that regard, the enhancement of the implementation of international legal instruments on oceans, in particular the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[2] is imperative, including for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recognized in Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. During the period under review, a multitude of meetings, conferences and numerous other ocean-related activities were held under the auspices of the United Nations, other organizations, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as at the national level, aimed at strengthening the policy and legal framework.

4. Particularly noteworthy are the following two global events: the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the Ocean Conference), held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017.

5. The present report highlights the outcomes of those events as well as other activities, including the adoption of measures and the development of programmes, including those undertaken by the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations in relation to General Assembly resolution 71/257.[3] Its purpose is to assist the Assembly in its annual consideration and review of those and other developments. The report should be read in conjunction with other reports relevant to oceans and the law of the sea issued by the United Nations during the period under review.[4] It should also be read in conjunction with the more detailed contributions provided by the United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and bodies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations,[5] for which the Secretary-General expresses his gratitude.

II. Legal and policy framework

6. The existing legal framework for oceans is broad and multifaceted and includes a multitude of global, regional and bilateral instruments, as well as national laws and regulations, centred around the Convention. Binding instruments are complemented by important non-binding instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda, which provide internationally agreed policy guidance, commitments, goals and targets. The full implementation of this legal framework, at the global, regional and national levels, as well as the development of additional norms to regulate new ocean-related activities and uses, is key for the peaceful and sustainable development of the oceans and their resources.

A. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

7. During the reporting period, the role of the Convention as the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out continued to be reaffirmed.[6] Its role in underpinning the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources was also recalled in target 14c of the 2030 Agenda.

8. Progress towards the goal of universal participation in the Convention and its implementing agreements continued to be made.[7] The number of parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[8] increased from 83 to 86 and those to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention[9] increased from 149 to 150 parties.

9. During the reporting period, the bodies and organs established in the Convention continued to work towards the strengthening of the rule of law in the oceans through the implementation of the Convention.

10. At the twenty-third session of the International Seabed Authority, held from 31 July to 18 August 2017, the Assembly of the Authority approved the final report of the Review Committee established to carry out the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, containing 19 recommendations addressing aspects of the regulation of seabed activities and the work of the Authority.[10] It also, among other actions, endorsed a revised meeting schedule for 2018 and 2019 in the light of the increased workload of the Authority.[11] The draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area have been made available for comments.[12]

11. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea devoted its forty-second and forty-third sessions to legal, organizational and administrative matters and the judicial work of the Tribunal, and commemorated the twentieth anniversary of its establishment on 7 October 2016.[13] The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, at its twenty-seventh meeting, which was held from 12 to 16 June 2017, elected seven members of the Tribunal for a term of nine years.[14]

12. The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention also elected 20 members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for a term of five years,[15] commencing at the forty-fourth session. Since the previous report, the previous members of the Commission held the forty-first, forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Commission[16] and adopted three sets of recommendations, bringing the total number of recommendations to 29. The Commission commemorated the twentieth anniversary of its establishment on 10 March 2017 by holding an open meeting.[17]

13. The Secretary-General received two additional deposits pursuant to article 76, paragraph 9, of the Convention, permanently describing the outer limit of the continental shelf, as well as four other deposits of charts or lists of geographical coordinates of points defining the limits of maritime zones.[18]

B. Other legal and policy instruments

14. The legal framework in the Convention continues to be strengthened through the development of additional instruments at the global and regional levels.[19] At its fourth session, the Preparatory Committee[20] adopted, by consensus, recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Preparatory Committee also recommended to the Assembly that it take a decision, as soon as possible, on the convening of an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention. The Assembly is expected to take such a decision in accordance with paragraph 1 (k) of resolution 69/292. The Preparatory Committee also adopted its progress report to the Assembly.[21]

15. During the period under review, the conditions for entry into force for a number of important instruments were met.[22] For example, the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its effective implementation is critical to maintaining the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans in the light of the expected impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the oceans and their resources.[23] In the Paris Agreement reference is made to the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity.[24] In this regard, the effective implementation of the Convention would contribute to building resilience and enhancing ocean-based mitigation, including the absorptive capacity of oceans as carbon sinks, which would in turn support efforts to reach adaptation and mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement.[25]

16. A number of important steps were also taken to strengthen the implementation of existing instruments on oceans at the global and regional levels, as described in sections III, IV and V below.[26]

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

17. During the period under review, a number of activities continued to take place with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Ocean Conference concluded with the adoption of a policy outcome document entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", in which the participants affirmed, among other things, the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the Convention.[27] In addition, a conference report was issued, which includes among other things, the summary outcome of the seven partnership dialogues held during the Ocean Conference[28] and more than 1,000 voluntary commitments and partnerships that were registered within the context of the Conference.[29] In the context of the Conference, on 8 June 2017, World Oceans Day was commemorated under the theme "Our oceans, our future", to promote collaboration and the continued sharing of information and best practices.

18. Furthermore, to assist in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda, a global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of

the 2030 Agenda was agreed upon by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, held from 7 to 10 March 2017, and was subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,[30] as a voluntary and country-led instrument that includes an initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the Commission (see also para. 76 below).[31]

19. The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, from 10 to 19 July 2017, on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", reviewed in depth Sustainable Development Goal 14 and some other goals of the 2030 Agenda.[32] Its high-level segment resulted in a ministerial declaration, in which the contribution of the oceans to sustainable development and sustainable ocean-based economies, as well as poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, maritime trade and transportation, decent work and livelihoods was recognized. The special importance of the oceans and seas and marine resources for least developed countries and small island developing States was also highlighted.[33]

III. People at sea

20. One of the objectives of Agenda 2030 is to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.[34] With people at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important to consider how humans are affected by the oceans and how they can make contributions towards the sustainable development of oceans and seas and their resources. In particular, addressing vulnerabilities, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls,[35] will be critical to enable all individuals to support sustainable development and benefit from the oceans and seas.

21. Gender issues have been considered in the context of some ocean-related sectors, for example fisheries; however, there is very limited research and data available on other sectors and no cross-sectoral and comprehensive consideration of the issue and its multiple dimensions has taken place at the intergovernmental level. In that regard, a conference entitled "Exploring the human element of the oceans: the gender implications of the law of the sea",[36] held on 25 and 26 May 2017 in Milan, Italy, provided an opportunity to examine for the first time the gender implications of the law of the sea in an integrated and comprehensive manner.[37] The conference, among other things, highlighted the contribution of women to the sustainable use of marine resources, noting that the role of women in some sectors, while substantial, remains often unremunerated and unregulated. Moreover, gender parity has yet to be reached in decision-making concerning ocean issues, underlining the need to increase the level of effective participation of women in various forums through the enhancement of, among others things, education, training and economic status.

22. While women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, torture and sexual abuse at sea (see also paras. 27, 39 and 40 below), men also face particular vulnerabilities, for example, as victims of labour exploitation in the private economy.[38]

Labour at sea

23. Notwithstanding the existence of international labour standards and other legal instruments, seafarers and fishers at sea, in particular, are frequently exposed to difficult working conditions and specific occupational risks. They are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, non-payment of wages, non-compliance with contracts,

exposure to poor diet and living conditions and even abandonment in foreign ports.[39]

24. Recent developments that can contribute to the improvement of the working and living conditions of seafarers include the entry into force in June 2017 of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended. This treaty is expected to contribute strongly to facilitating access to shore leave, transfer and transit for seafarers, while enhancing security in ports and borders through the use of a secure and internationally recognized document.

25. The entry into force, in January 2017, of the amendments of 2014 to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, is further expected to ensure the provision of an expeditious and effective financial security system to assist seafarers in cases of abandonment, and to assure compensation for contractual claims in the event of a seafarer's death or long term disability owing to an operational injury, illness or hazard.[40]

26. The entry into force, in November 2017, of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) will boost global efforts to ensure decent working conditions for workers in the fishing sector.[41] Broader acceptance and effective implementation of the Convention is very important in order to protect fishers from unacceptable forms of work and abuses of rights. Notably, the Convention allows for minimum requirements to be enforced through labour inspections in foreign ports. The International Labour Organization (ILO) developed the *Guidelines on Flag State Inspection of Working and Living Conditions on Board Fishing Vessels* to assist flag States in complying with their obligations under the Convention.[42]

27. In addition, the standards in the Convention can, together with the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), play a preventative role in addressing forced labour and child labour.[43] ILO also launched the Global Action Programme against forced labour and trafficking of fishers at sea.[44] A tripartite meeting on issues relating to migrant fishers[45] is being convened by ILO in September, as part of the follow-up to the resolution concerning the promotion of welfare for fishers, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2007.[46]

Migration by sea

28. The large number of people who put their lives at risk crossing the ocean in many parts of the world, the rising death toll, the exploitation of people by smugglers (see paras. 39 and 40 below), insufficient search and rescue, the inadequate protection of asylum-seekers and refugees and problems of disembarkation are, among others, issues of grave concern.

29. Nearly a half a million refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe during 2016 and 2017,[47] with approximately 7,000 people having died or gone missing.[48] In 2017, there has been a 26 per cent increase in the number of refugees and migrants using the central Mediterranean route,[49] while there has been a decrease in the number of persons using the eastern route compared with 2016.[50]

30. Some 117,100 people refugees and migrants crossed from the Horn of Africa to Yemen in 2016, a significant increase compared with 2015. There were approximately 21,700 arrivals to the Yemeni coast in the first five months of 2017.[51] Since the middle of 2015, there has been a reduction in the large-scale movements of refugees and migrants by sea across the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.[52] In the Caribbean, 392 maritime incidents involving a total of 6,229 persons were recorded in 2016.[53] By May 2017, 56 maritime incidents in the Caribbean involving 1,326 individuals were recorded.[54]

31. In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,[55] adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016, the Assembly committed to developing a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration by 2018, which States will begin to negotiate in February 2018. In the Declaration, the Assembly also called upon States to consider developing non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines on the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and to commit to intensifying international cooperation on the strengthening of search and rescue mechanisms, including by improving the availability of accurate data on the whereabouts of people and vessels stranded at sea.[56]

IV. Shipping and maritime security

32. The shipping sector continues to be an engine for economic growth and development, with more than 80 per cent of global trade delivered by seagoing ships.[57] However, the sector continued to face challenges in relation to overcapacity of the world fleet,[58] and with regard to the effective implementation of the legal regime.

33. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) continued to focus its attention on the effective implementation of existing instruments for maritime safety and security and on the protection of the marine environment from ship-based pollution, as well as on encouraging participation in international instruments in order to bring them into force.[59] Specific strategic directions for IMO for the period 2018-2023 include improving implementation, integrating new and advancing technologies in the regulatory framework, responding to climate change, engaging in ocean governance, enhancing global facilitation and security of international trade and ensuring regulatory and organizational effectiveness.[60]

34. Effective flag implementation remains critical in order to maximize the economic benefits from maritime trade and transport, for ensuring safety and security of navigation at sea, decent working conditions (see paras. 23-27 above), the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources (see sect. V.B below). A recent issue of concern in that regard has been the fraudulent use of flags by ships not belonging to the national registry of the State whose flags they fly, including to engage in illicit activities.[61]

35. Activities at sea that can pose a threat to maritime security include transnational organized criminal activities committed at sea, including the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants, the trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms as well as other criminal activities, such as piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests.[62] Maritime cyberattacks can also pose a threat to maritime safety and security. In June 2017, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted a resolution on maritime cyber risk management in safety management systems.[63]

36. During the period under review, the number of reported acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships decreased globally.[64] In some regions, however, an increased number of attacks in 2016 remained a matter of significant concern.[65] For example, there was some evidence of a resurgence of Somali-based piracy, with seven incidents, including three hijackings, during the first six months of 2017,[66] while notable reductions occurred off the coasts of India and Nigeria. The level of violence used in attacks remained unacceptably high worldwide. Moreover, citing concerns over the underreporting of incidents, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee issued a circular on the reporting of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against

ships in the Gulf of Guinea.[67] It also considered draft guidelines for floating armouries, and referred the issue to the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia,[68] which, in turn, urged IMO to take early action.[69]

37. Measures to combat piracy were taken in different regions. For example, concerned with recent incidents in the region involving abduction or attempted abduction of crew, on 19 June 2017, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines launched a trilateral maritime patrol agreement to address the increasing incidence of piracy, armed robbery against ships, the kidnapping of crew at sea and other transnational crimes along the shared borders of the three countries.[70]

38. An increasingly regional and integrated approach to combating crimes at sea was also adopted by 12 States in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. The revised Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct), adopted in January 2017, now also covers, besides piracy and armed robbery against ships, "transnational organized crime in the maritime domain"[71] and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In relation to the covered crimes, the Amendment introduces a broad framework for voluntary cooperation, including through the use of embarked officers, coordination and information-sharing, reporting, assistance and training and education.[72]

39. A number of activities were also undertaken at the regional level to address the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons (see paras. 27 and 28 above). For example, a task force on planning and preparedness was established, pursuant to the Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and related Transitional Crime, adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process in 2016. Follow-up to commitments to the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action were undertaken in the Caribbean.[73]

40. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the Global Programme against the Smuggling of Migrants, held two regional training workshops to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by sea, in India and Malta. It also signed a cooperation agreement with the European Naval Force Mediterranean Operation Sophia, which is mandated by the Security Council, in its resolutions 2240 (2015), 2292 (2016) and 2312 (2016), to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers.[74]

41. Combating illicit traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances by sea remained another priority for maritime security initiatives in many regions, as effective measures also require international cooperation and coordination. For example, the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime developed the Southern Route Partnership, in which drug/law enforcement agencies in the region and international organizations work together to coordinate counter-narcotics initiatives that target the southern drug-smuggling route.[75]

42. In November 2016, the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime launched a new four-year programme to enhance the capacity of developing countries to address fisheries crimes along the fisheries value chain. The third International Symposium on Fisheries Crime will be held in September 2017.[76]

V. Challenges and opportunities for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

43. In order to maximize the benefits of the oceans and their resources for current and future generations, the various uses of the oceans must be sustainable. However, for activities on the oceans and seas to be sustainable, it is important to not only control the individual anthropogenic pressures on the marine environment that negatively affect the health, resilience and productivity of marine ecosystems, but also take the cumulative impacts of pressures into account. In this regard, several important management tools and approaches have been developed and are increasingly being implemented.

44. The pressures adversely affecting oceans include climate change, ocean acidification, marine pollution, overfishing and harmful fishing practices, coastal development and the introduction of alien invasive species. The imperative of immediate action to address the impacts of climate change on oceans and the need for a continued, coordinated international focus, in particular in view of the grave implications for countries with low-lying coasts, whose very existence is under threat, was underlined at the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and low-lying coastal countries, as well as coastal African States, were recognized as particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.[77] The need to develop and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures was also emphasized at the Ocean Conference.[78]

A. Increasing knowledge and understanding and promoting marine science and technology

45. An increase in scientific understanding of the ocean, including its interactions with the atmosphere, is fundamental for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and for addressing the cumulative impacts on the ocean, including climate change and ocean acidification. However, limited knowledge of some marine ecosystems and processes and the insufficient integration of available scientific knowledge into decision-making processes remain significant challenges for the sustainable management of the oceans.

46. The Ocean Conference and the high-level political forum reaffirmed the importance of science, technology and innovation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.[79] States committed to halting and reversing the decline in the health and productivity of the ocean and its ecosystems and to protecting and restoring its resilience and ecological integrity, including by increasing marine scientific research and dedicating greater resources to it, and enhancing the sharing of data, best practices and know-how. The need to further expand the current understanding of the role of the ocean and the stressors on its ecosystems, including through assessments of the state of the ocean, and promote decision-making based on the best available science,[80] and the need for the scientific community and policymakers to cooperate in order to implement the 2030 Agenda, were highlighted.[81]

47. During the period under review, a number of activities and initiatives were undertaken to promote marine scientific research, increase the research capacity of States and support the science-policy interface.

48. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) endorsed the proposal for a United Nations International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030): "The ocean we need for the future we want" as a framework for concerted action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14, including as an opportunity to address, among others, issues related to ocean and climate, establish new partnerships, launch new flagship research projects and raise public awareness.[82] The Commission also launched the first edition of the *Global Ocean Science Report*, which assesses the status and trends in ocean science capacity around the world.[83]

49. With regard to assessments of the state of marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, for the second cycle (2015-2020) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects,[84] the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, in accordance with the work programme for the period 2017-2020,[85] produced a set of three technical abstracts that synthesize for policymakers key scientific information contained in the first global integrated marine assessment. The abstracts are intended to support, among other intergovernmental processes, the 2030 Agenda; the work pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the Informal Consultative Process, which in 2017 focused its discussions on the theme "The effects of climate change on oceans".[86] The publications of the assessment and of the three technical abstracts were launched at the Ocean Conference. As decided by the General Assembly, the scope of the second cycle will extend from establishing a baseline to evaluating trends and identifying gaps.[87] It will also include the organization of regional workshops, among other things, to build capacity.[88]

50. Other recent assessments include the first Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) *Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea*, published in June 2017,[89] and the International Atomic Energy Agency programme entitled, "Modelling and data for radiological impact assessments II", which was launched in 2016, with a view to improving member States' scientific knowledge and capabilities for the assessment of the level of protection to the public and the environment against the exposure to ionizing radiation.[90]

Technology development and transfer

51. There has been a marked increase in the development of technology for various uses of the oceans. Rapid progress in the development of robotics, sensors, remote control technologies, communication, propulsion and powering and autonomous systems are opening up new sectors of ocean use and fostering research.[91]

52. Technologies are also expected to transform ship design and building in the future and have an impact on safety, commercial and operational performance.[92] Particular attention has also been given to developing technologies aimed at reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide emissions.[93]

53. Rapid strides with technology and other innovations are also being made in the area of offshore renewable energy, with many applications reaching a commercial stage. These will drive cost reductions and help to expand markets.[94]

54. While advancements in technology can support a better understanding of the oceans, the conservation and sustainable use of its resources,[95] the production of renewable energy and the exploration and exploitation of non-living marine resources, among other uses, there is a need to understand the possible consequences of future technology and to broaden discussions on the impact of technologies and their regulation. IMO, for example, decided to take a proactive role and undertake a regulatory scoping exercise for the use of maritime autonomous surface ships.[96]

55. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), Member States stressed the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development. The Convention, in Part XIV, calls for, among other things, all States to cooperate in accordance with their capabilities to promote actively the development and transfer of marine technology on fair and reasonable terms and conditions in order to help developing countries to access the benefits of oceans and seas.

56. During the reporting period, the General Assembly, by its resolution 71/251, established the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, which is also relevant to the implementation of the Convention.[97]

B. Conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources

57. The world's fisheries, in particular small-scale and artisanal fisheries, are key contributors to food security and nutrition, livelihoods and economic development. However, sustainability has remained a significant challenge for many of them. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that in 2013, 31.4 per cent of capture fisheries were fished at biologically unsustainable levels.[98] The overall status of highly migratory fish stocks and straddling fish stocks has also not improved from 2006 to 2016; the status of a significant number of stocks has deteriorated even as it improved for a smaller number of stocks.[99]

58. Some of the main contributing factors to overfishing in this regard have been identified as poor management, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, overcapacity, destructive fishing practices, the lack of knowledge or information and the lack of capacity. In order to meet target 14.4 set out in Sustainable Development Goal 14,[100] significant efforts will be needed at all levels.

59. Regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have continued to take steps to improve the management of fisheries under their remit, including through the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conference on the Agreement.[101] For example, amendments to the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Convention to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management entered into force in May 2017.[102] Following the review in 2016 by the General Assembly of the implementation of provisions of its resolutions relating to the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks, which led to the development of additional measures, a number of steps have been taken by FAO and the regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve the management of these stocks.[103]

60. The Review Conference on the Agreement recommended that the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, which will resume in 2018, be dedicated, on an annual basis, to the consideration of specific issues arising from

the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference.

61. A number of measures were also taken to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including in accordance with the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.[104] The first Meeting of the Parties to that Agreement and the first Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group established under article 21 of that Agreement discussed the main requirements and priorities of developing States parties in the implementation of the Agreement.[105] Port State measures have been increasingly adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements.[106] In 2017, FAO, responding to a call of the General Assembly in 2013, also adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.[107]

62. Some fisheries subsidies can contribute, directly or indirectly, to overcapacity and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.[108] Negotiations pertaining to fisheries subsidies will take place at the eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in December 2017. The WTO Negotiating Group on Rules will consider written proposals for new disciplines on fisheries subsidies.[109]

C. Marine biodiversity, ecosystem functions, goods and services

63. Marine biodiversity is vitally important for human well-being, since it underpins a wide range of ecosystem services on which life depends. It is generally recognized that marine ecosystems and biodiversity have critical functions in the natural cycle and in supporting life on Earth. Marine ecosystems and biodiversity, including beyond areas of national jurisdiction, also provide a source of livelihood for billions of people around the world. Available evidence indicates that marine biodiversity is under growing pressure from different types of human activity, as described in paragraph 44 above. States, through various initiatives and in particular, through intergovernmental organizations, are continuing to address some of these pressures.[110]

64. Recent action taken at the intergovernmental level include measures to address the impacts from anthropogenic underwater noise, tidal and wave energy devices, polychlorinated biphenyls, underwater munitions and bycatch.[111] Coral reefs have been a particular focus of attention.[112] The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a voluntary specific workplan for biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention.[113]

65. Addressing other pressures such as pollution from land-based sources, in particular marine debris, plastics and microplastics, continues to be a particular point of emphasis.[114] In relation to marine debris, the United Nations Environment Assembly will consider, in December 2017, an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics.[115] Voluntary practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats has recently been adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.[116] FAO is expected to hold in early 2018 a second technical consultation to further develop the draft guidelines on the marking of fishing gear, for consideration by the Committee on Fisheries in July 2018.[117] Additional measures to address marine debris are also being discussed by the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention), the Basel Convention on the Control of

Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,[118] as well at the regional level in the context of several Regional Seas Programmes, as well as by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), HELCOM[119] and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS).[120]

66. The fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in October 2017, will provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Programme and identify steps for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those related to marine pollution.[121]

67. International efforts to reduce pollution through the transfer of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water will be significantly strengthened as a result of the entry into force on 8 September 2017 of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. Work is under way within IMO to prepare a code for approval of ballast water management systems, as well as draft amendments to that Convention making the code mandatory.[122]

68. Measures to address cumulative pressures (see paras. 43 and 44 above) on marine biological diversity have focused in particular on enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels. For example, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies was convened. At the meeting held in October 2016, it was decided that the Global Dialogue would become a regular forum.[123] The need for strengthened cross-sectoral cooperation, in particular in areas beyond national jurisdiction, has also been recognized by the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292, as well as in recent studies.[124]

69. Cross-sectoral and integrated approaches to the management of human activities in the oceans and seas include ecosystem approaches, integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning. Work on providing guidance in the application of marine spatial planning and ecosystem approaches continues in the context of a number of organizations, including in a cross-sectoral manner.[125] In that regard, area-based management, including the establishment of marine protected areas, has been recognized as an important tool.[126]

70. Estimates from the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity indicate that, currently, 14.4 per cent of marine areas under national jurisdiction are protected, indicating the achievement of the quantitative element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in these areas.[127] If the additional commitments, such as projects approved for funding by the Global Environment Facility, voluntary commitments announced during the Ocean Conference, the Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges and the targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, are implemented as planned, then 23.5 per cent of marine areas under national jurisdiction and 10.1 per cent of the ocean as a whole would be protected by 2020.[128] However, further efforts are needed to ensure that the other aspects of the Target are achieved, in particular effective management, equity and representativity.[129]

VI. Strengthening implementation through integrated and cross-sectoral approaches

A. Strengthening international cooperation and coordination

71. Enhancing the engagement of Governments with global, regional and subregional bodies and programmes, the scientific community, the private sector, the donor community, non-governmental organizations, community groups, academic institutions and other relevant actors is important with a view to developing comprehensive strategies to raise awareness of the natural and cultural significance of the ocean, as well as of its state and role, including at the local level.[130] In that regard, the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" highlights the need to strengthen and promote effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships and commitments, including public-private partnerships. It also underlines the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach in implementing Goal 14 and other relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as for enhanced cooperation, coordination and policy coherence.[131]

72. A number of initiatives and activities to foster cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination are ongoing, including, for example, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue (see para. 68 above) and bilateral cooperation between different organizations, formalized at times through the signing of memorandums of understanding.[132]

73. In "Our ocean, our future: call for action", the Secretary-General was called upon to continue his efforts to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing inter-agency coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system on ocean issues, taking into consideration the work of UN-Oceans.[133]

74. In their statement to the Informal Consultative Process,[134] UN-Oceans members noted the achievements to date under the revised terms of reference adopted by the General Assembly.[135] These include, in particular, the launch of the UN-Oceans inventory of mandates and activities approved by the respective governing bodies of participating organizations with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy, and to assist States in identifying, in particular, technical assistance or capacity-building available from UN-Oceans members.[136] The inventory, which also provides an excellent opportunity for supporting the implementation of Goal 14 and other ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, is hosted on the UN-Oceans website developed and generously funded by FAO.

75. UN-Oceans has provided a useful mechanism for effective cooperation and coordination among all relevant agencies, including the identification of areas for potential synergies; and increased visibility for ocean-related issues. UN-Oceans members have carried out awareness-raising activities, for example, through joint side events and joint statements, in order to call attention to emerging and pressing issues, such as the impacts of climate change on oceans and ocean acidification.[137]

76. Furthermore, during the period under review, UN-Oceans members contributed substantively to the Ocean Conference through, among other things, the preparation of the background note of the Secretary-General for the preparatory process of the Conference and concept papers for the seven partnership dialogues held during the Conference. UN-Oceans also registered a voluntary commitment at the Ocean Conference that will focus on awareness-raising of relevant regulatory and policy frameworks as well as on its members' activities in support of their

implementation. UN-Oceans is also working on a methodology and reporting format for the indicator for Sustainable Development Goal target 14c, including possibly through the use of a questionnaire to gather the data needed to measure progress in achieving that target.

77. In their statement to the Ocean Conference, UN-Oceans members indicated their readiness to build on the activities already undertaken to strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to oceans and coastal areas, with the view to realizing the great potential of UN-Oceans to become more than the sum of its parts and to deliver as one, in particular through the development of joint programmes and projects.

78. Its members consider that, if sufficiently empowered and supported, UN-Oceans, as a multisectoral and multidisciplinary partnership, is well placed to enhance in an integrated manner the required assistance to States. In particular, through joint projects and products, UN-Oceans members can deliver effective assistance to support States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Members also identified a need to enhance coordination in addressing pressing issues, such as the nexus between oceans, on the one hand, and climate change and variability, ocean acidification and disaster risk reduction, on the other.

79. At the same time, UN-Oceans members consider that an enhanced role for UN-Oceans would not only be dependent on a revision of its terms of reference, scheduled to be reviewed by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, to provide a clear mandate to develop joint projects, but would also benefit from other support, including financial. In that regard, UN-Oceans noted the successful example of UN-Water.

B. Building the capacity of States to implement the legal regime for the oceans and seas

80. Many capacity-building initiatives undertaken by intergovernmental organizations during the reporting period had the overall objective of assisting developing States in sustainably managing their ocean-based activities and resources, including through the implementation of the Convention and related agreements, particularly in the light of commitments to sustainable development. For example, IMO reported that priority had been given to technical assistance programmes that focused on human resources development and institutional capacity-building, taking into consideration the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the special needs of the small island developing States and least developed countries.

81. Details of other relevant initiatives and capacity-building activities undertaken by other intergovernmental organizations are provided in the contributions to the present report,[138] and include those of the International Seabed Authority, which has continued to build the capacity of developing States in deep-sea research and technology through its contractor training programmes and the Endowment Fund for marine scientific research in the Area.[139]

82. Pursuant to relevant General Assembly mandates, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, continues to provide Member States with demand-driven capacity-building opportunities especially targeted to provide cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary perspectives within its realm of expertise, in particular with respect to the effective implementation of the Convention and related agreements. The Division also continues to provide information, advice and assistance to States, intergovernmental organizations and

others, thereby promoting a better understanding of the Convention and related agreements and wider acceptance, uniform and consistent application and the effective implementation of that regime.[140]

Fellowships

83 Through the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, 30 individuals from 26 Member States have been trained since 1986. One Fellowship was awarded in 2017, for a reduced period of only four months, owing to the limited amount of funds available. Given the chronic lack of funds for the Fellowship, appeals have been made for voluntary contributions to the trust fund.

84. Since 2004, 130 individuals from 75 Member States have been trained through the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme. Currently, 10 individuals are undertaking their fellowships and 10 new awards will be made in October 2017 for the 2018 cycle. Under the alumni programme of the Fellowship Programme, two meetings were held in 2016: an alumni meeting, held in conjunction with the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, in Togo; and an alumni meeting on the topic "Maritime South-East Asia and South Asia: mapping opportunities and challenges", in Bali. In 2017, an alumni meeting was held in conjunction with the Oceans Conference. During that meeting, the United Nations and the Nippon Foundation announced the launch in 2018 of the Sustainable Ocean Programme, which will provide advance training and research opportunities in a number of relevant disciplines, including marine science and management, to support effective ocean governance, including the achievement of Goal 14 and other ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals.

85. Through a special strategic fellowship, offered within the framework of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme, a customized four-month fellowship, from April to July 2017, was provided to a government official of Haiti. This fellowship provided a tailored curriculum focused on aspects of ocean affairs and the law of the sea of contemporary strategic significance to the State concerned.

Marine scientific research training course

86. As part of a joint training programme[141] with the financial support of the Korea Maritime Institute, a second training course focused on the needs of Caribbean Member States was held, in collaboration with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Subcommission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE),[142] from 2 to 5 May 2017, in Saint Lucia.

Trust funds

87. The Division continues to manage nine trust funds established pursuant to relevant General Assembly mandates, as well as the provisions of the Fish Stocks Agreement. During the period under review, the Division received contributions to the trust funds from Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.[143] No funds were received for the Assistance Fund under the Fish Stocks Agreement and the Fund is currently depleted.

VII. Conclusions

88. Building on the 2030 Agenda and its stand-alone goal on oceans — Sustainable Development Goal 14 — the international community maintained a strong focus on oceans during the period under consideration. Indeed, an unprecedented number of ocean-related meetings were held at United Nations Headquarters in the past year to address various oceans issues. Among these, the Preparatory Committee and the Ocean Conference enjoyed very broad participation. In particular, more than a thousand voluntary commitments and partnerships registered during the Ocean Conference highlighted the vast global interest around oceans issues.[144]

89. While these developments signal important progress, this momentum for addressing oceans issues with a sense of urgency must be maintained and built upon. The oceans and their resources hold considerable promise as engines for sustainable development. In particular, the development of sustainable ocean-based economies can benefit the least developed countries and small island developing States, which already rely heavily on the oceans for food and nutrition, livelihoods and social and cultural benefits. However, if the health, productivity and resilience of ocean ecosystems is not maintained, or in some cases, restored, it will not be possible to increase the benefits accrued from the oceans, and in many cases, a portion of the benefits currently enjoyed may be lost for future generations.

90. First, it will be important to increase and disseminate scientific knowledge and understanding of the oceans and marine ecosystems. In this regard, the development and broad use of technology can both facilitate scientific research and increase the wider benefits available from the oceans by facilitating the development of new economic sectors and uses in a responsible way.

91. Second, it is critical through enhanced advocacy to raise awareness of the oceans and the problems facing them to a broader range of stakeholders at all levels, so as to promote individual and community stewardship of the oceans and to increase stakeholder participation in oceans initiatives, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

92. Third, conscious that the problems of the ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole, it is necessary to continue to promote integrated approaches to oceans issues, including by increasing cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination. Within the United Nations system, inter-agency cooperation, such as through UN-Oceans, remains a crucial tool in this regard.

93. Fourth, the human element, including the gender discussion, must be placed at the forefront of any conversation on the sustainable development of the oceans, including through capacity-building. This entails also addressing working conditions on board ships, migration by sea, as well as the smuggling and trafficking of persons by sea and other threats to the lives and livelihoods of people at sea.

94. Critical to achieving these and other objectives, as well as the commitments in Goal 14 and other ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, is the full and effective implementation of the legal framework for oceans in the Convention and related instruments at the global, regional and national levels. The effective implementation of the Convention continues to be key for maximizing the benefits that can be derived from the oceans and their resources by current and future generations while ensuring that the uses of the oceans and seas are peaceful and sustainable and in accordance with the rule of law.

Annex*

Endnotes

* The annex is being issued in the language of submission only and without formal editing.

[1] General Assembly resolution 71/257, para. 289.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, p. 3.

[3] It should be noted that, due to word count restrictions on reports of the Secretary-General and the pace and scope of developments in the field of oceans and the law of the sea, the present report does not purport to be comprehensive, but to provide an illustrative and thematic overview of major developments.

[4] These include: (a) the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/72/70), which addresses the topic of focus of the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Informal Consultative Process); (b) the report on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its eighteenth meeting (A/72/95); (c) the reports of the resumed twenty-seventh Meetings of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/316); (d) the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, on its eighth meeting (A/72/89); (e) the Report of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/CONF.230/4); (f) Preparatory process of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Note by the Secretary-General (A/71/733) and the concept notes and other documents prepared for the partnership dialogues of the Ocean Conference (available at: oceanconference.un.org/documents) and (g) other relevant documents, such as the statements by the Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on the progress of work in the Commission (CLCS/96, CLCS/98 and CLCS/100).

[5] Inputs have been received from the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission — Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Hague Conference on Private International Law, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Seabed Authority, North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Organization of American States (OAS), Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), OSPAR Commission, Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO). All contributions are available from: www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/contributions72.htm.

[6] See, for example, the statements made at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/316); Our Ocean, our future: call for action, A/RES/71/312, annex, para. 11.

[7] As at 31 August 2017, there were 168 parties to the Convention, 150 parties to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention and 86 parties to the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement).

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, p. 3.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, p. 3.

[10] ISBA/23/A/3. Also see Comments by the Secretary-General on the recommendations contained in the final report on the periodic review of the International Seabed Authority pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (ISBA/23/A/5/Rev.1).
[11] ISBA/23/A/13.
[12] ISBA/23/LTC/CRP.3*. A list of related questions is contained in document ISBA/23/C/12.
[13] See SPLOS/304 and SPLOS/316.
[14] See SPLOS/316.
[15] Ibid.
[16] See CLCS/95, CLCS/96 and CLCS/98.
[17] Information on the Open Meeting is available in the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (http://www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/clcsopen_2017.htm).
[18] See Maritime Zone Notifications 122 to 127, concerning deposits made by Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Qatar, Ecuador and the Sudan, respectively (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/depositpublicity.htm).
[19] For more information, see the received contributions at: www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/contributions72.htm.
[20] The Preparatory Committee held its first, second, third and fourth sessions from 28 March-8 April 2016, 26 August to 9 September 2016, 27 March to 7 April 2017 and from 10 to 21 July 2017, respectively.
[21] The advance, unedited version of the report is available at: http://www.un.org/depts/los/biodiversity/prepcom.htm.
[22] These included the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) on 8 September 2017, the 2003 Convention Revising the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, as amended, on 8 June 2017, and the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention on 19 November 2017. For information on additional instruments, see the received contributions at: www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/contributions72.htm.
[23] See, the first part of the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (A/72/70), addressing the topic of focus of the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process. This instrument aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the Agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php.
[24] FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1, Annex, preamble.
[25] A/72/95, para. 15.
[26] Additional information may also be found in the received contributions at: www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/.
[27] General Assembly resolution 71/312, annex, para. 11.
[28] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15662FINAL_15_June_2017_Report_Goal_14.pdf.
[29] The voluntary commitments were registered by inter alia, States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations: https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/.
[30] See resolutions E/2017/7, and A/RES/71/313 adopted respectively, on 7 June and 6 July 2017.
[31] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/. The framework will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels, which will be developed by Member States. All indicators for SDG 14 targets, except for targets 14.4 and 14.5, fall under the category of Tier III, under which there is no established methodology or standards for the indicator or where the methodology and standards are being developed or tested.
[32] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf. On 13 July 2017, the High-level Political Forum conducted the review of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=20000&nr=2216&menu=2993.
[33] The Declaration is currently available as E/2017/L.29–E/HLPF/2017/L.2, para. 19. The President's summary of discussion highlights the double challenge of increasing outputs while safeguarding the ocean and seas. It recognized that the Ocean Conference has made significant headway in addressing the ocean challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda through, inter alia, the "Our ocean, our future: call for action", which enumerates comprehensive plans of action to be taken by all actors. See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16673HLPF_2017_Presidents_summary.pdf.

[34] 2030 Agenda, preamble.

[35] Sustainable development goal 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", calls for the elimination of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

[36] For the programme of the conference and further details, see http://www.giurisprudenza.unimib.it/DATA/bacheca/file/locandina2.pdf, and http://www.assidmer.net/doc/Call_for_Papers_gender_ilos.pdf.

[37] See https://ilg2.org/2016/12/12/write-on-call-for-papers-gender-implications-of-the-law-of-the-sea/.

[38] See http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_214472.pdf. Men constitute approximately 60 per cent of detected labour trafficking victims.

[39] See http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/seafarers/lang--en/index.htm.

[40] A list of the States that have informed the ILO of their acceptance of the 2014 amendments can be found at: www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/long--en/index.htm. The 2016 amendments to the Code, which are expected to enter into force in January 2019, would call upon States to take into account the latest version of the Guidance on eliminating shipboard harassment and bullying.

[41] The Convention is complemented by the Work in Fishing Recommendations, 2007. See also ILO contribution.

[42] They can be found at: http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/codes-of-practice-and-guideline/WCMS_428592/lang--en/index.htm.

[43] See http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_535063/lang--en/index.htm.

[44] More information about the Programme can be found at: www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/group/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_429359.pdf.

[45] The UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants defines a migrant worker as a "person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national".

[46] ILO contribution.

[47] According to the UNHCR, in 2016 more than 363,700 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe and almost 83,000 refugees and migrants crossed in 2017. See UNHCR contribution.

[48] As at 21 June 2017, approximately 5,000 people in 2016 and 2,000 people in 2017 died or have gone missing. See UNCHR contribution and http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean for most recent figures.

[49] By the end of May 2017, approximately 60,230 refugees and migrants, mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa, used the central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy. See UNHCR contribution.

[50] The number of refugees and migrants using the eastern Mediterranean route, Turkey to Greece has decreased in 2017 as compared to 2016, with around 173,000 arrivals. Nearly half of those using this route were from the Syrian Arab Republic. See UNHCR contribution.

[51] UNHCR contribution.

[52] Ibid.

[53] Ibid.

[54] Ibid.

[55] A/RES/71/1.

[56] Ibid.

[57] It is estimated that world seaborne trade volumes surpassed a record 10 billion tons in 2015, but shipments only expanded by 2.1 per cent, a pace notably slower than the historical average. The port industry also experienced significant declines in growth, with the top 20 container ports, accounting for about half of the world's container port throughput, showing a decline in growth rate, from 5.6 per cent in 2014 to 0.5 per cent in 2015. UNCTAD, *Review of Maritime Transport, 2016*.

[58] Ibid. The world fleet grew by 3.5 per cent in 2015, the lowest growth rate since 2003, yet still higher than the 2.1 per cent growth in demand, leading to a continued situation of global overcapacity. Most shipping segments suffered historic low levels of freight rates and weak earnings, triggered by weak demand and oversupply of new tonnage.

[59] For example, the Legal Committee of the IMO at its 104th session approved a draft resolution to be submitted to the 30th session of the IMO Assembly aimed at encouraging implementation and entry into force of the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996, which covers liability and compensation for damage caused by the transport of hazardous and noxious substances by ship.

[60] IMO Council, document C 117/D. Specific strategic directions for the IMO were identified and approved by the IMO Council, in the context of preparing the Strategic framework for the period 2018-2023. The complete Strategic Plan as well as performance indicators and outputs will be presented for adoption to the 30th session of the IMO Assembly, which will be held at the end of 2017.

[61] See IMO document LEG 104/15, p. 3, and annex 9.

[62] General Assembly resolution 71/257.

[63] MSC 98/23, p. 32.

[64] MSC.4/Circ.245, p. 2. The number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, which were reported to IMO to have occurred or been attempted in 2016 is 221, a 27 per cent decrease from the 303 reported in 2015. The areas most affected by acts and attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in 2016 were the South China Sea (68 in total), West Africa (62 in total), the Western Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea, East Africa, the Persian Gulf and the wider Indian Ocean) with 35 in total, South America Pacific and the Caribbean (25 in total), the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (21 in total), Yellow Sea (7 in total), and the North Atlantic and Pacific Ocean (3 in total). During the first six months of 2017, 87 incidents were reported to the International Maritime Bureau globally, which represented a reduction from the equivalent six-month period in 2016. MSC.4/Circ.245, p. 2.

[65] For example, the number of incidents attributed to Somalia-based pirates (Arabian Sea) increased from 15 to 21; in the Gulf of Guinea, there was an increase from 35 to 62 incidents, representing a 77 per cent increase; and the number of reported acts of piracy and armed robbery in the South America Pacific and the Caribbean increased to 25 incidents, compared with 5 reported incidents in 2015.

[66] The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, at its 20th Plenary in July 2017 acknowledged that piracy remained a threat in the region and considered that the spike in recent incidents may imply that piracy networks retain the capability and the intent to commit acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Communiqué of the 20th Plenary, available at: www.lessonsfrompiracy.net/files/2017/07/Communique-20th-plenary.pdf.

[67] MSC 98/23, p. 73; MSC.1/Circ.1585.

[68] MSC 98/23, p. 71.

[69] Communiqué of the 20th Plenary, para. 36.

[70] ReCAAP Half Yearly report (January-June 2017), p. 1.

[71] www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/PIU/Pages/DCoC.aspx.

[72] www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/PIU/Documents/DCOC%20Jeddah%20Amendment%20English.pdf.

[73] UNHCR contribution. Following the commitments made under the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action to create a regional consultative process in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) were established with a view to coordinated, rights-based and effective management of mixed migration in the region. The CMC held its first Technical Meeting in December 2016, and discussed the complexity and increasing magnitude of mixed migration throughout the Caribbean and the importance of developing balanced migration polices based on human rights and refugee-protection principles.

[74] UNODC contribution.

[75] The SRP provides an opportunity and space for all stakeholders engaged in counter narcotics activity on the Southern Route to coordinate, collaborate and de-conflict their work. UNODC Maritime Crime Programme, Annual report 2016, p. 6.

[76] The Symposium will be held from 25 to 26 September in Vienna. UNODC contribution.

[77] A/71/95, paras. 11 and 22. The major effects of climate change on oceans include ocean warming, ocean acidification and their cumulative impacts, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, loss of polar ice, coastal inundation and erosion, destruction of infrastructure and property, saltwater intrusion, degradation of ecosystems as well as agricultural land, ocean stratification and hypoxia, or oxygen depletion, migration of fish stocks and coral bleaching. These impacts are affecting the oceans in addition to many existing cumulative pressures, such as overfishing and harmful fishing practices, pollution, habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and ocean noise. During the eighteenth meeting, delegations acknowledged that anthropogenic climate change was affecting the oceans, with environmental, social and economic impacts for all States and, in particular, developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and low-lying coastal countries as well as coastal African States.

[78] A/CONF.230/11, annex, para 13 (k). The Ocean Conference in "Our ocean, our future: call for action", called on all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by taking, inter alia, actions on an urgent basis, including developing and implement effective adaptation and mitigation measures that contribute to increasing and supporting resilience to ocean and coastal acidification, sea-level rise and increase in ocean temperatures, and to addressing the other harmful impacts of climate change on the ocean as well as coastal and blue carbon ecosystems.

[79] See General Assembly resolution 71/312.

[80] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15662FINAL_15_June_2017_Report_Goal_14.pdf.

[81] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16673HLPF_2017_Presidents_summary.pdf.

[82] IOC-UNESCO, Summary Report of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Assembly (21-29 June 2017, Paris, France), Part 1, pp. 14-16. See also resolution XXIX-1: "International (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" available at: http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=19647.

[83] Ibid, Part 2, p. 1.

[84] The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, aims to regularly review the state of the marine environment and enables policymakers and all stakeholders to identify and prioritize areas for action including as an input to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The First Assessment is available at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm.

[85] See General Assembly resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015.

[86] Copies of the Technical Abstracts are also available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm.

[87] See General Assembly resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016.

[88] See the Programme of Work of the second cycle as annexed to the report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process, document A/71/32.

[89] See http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/BSEP122.pdf.

[90] See also other ongoing regional and global assessments that have been compiled in the "Inventory of available information on recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process", which is available on the website of the Division.

[91] See World Economic Forum website at https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/09/12-cutting-edge-technologies-that-could-save-our-oceans/. For example, advancements in technology including the devices fitted to automated underwater vehicles (AUVs) allow them to measure moving water while in motion, including monitoring upper-ocean currents, a development which is expected to have significant cost benefits over traditional ship-based data collecting, in which one day of ship-based data collecting can cost as much as a month of AUV operation.

[92] Global Marine Technology Trends 2030 report, available at http://www.lr.org/en/news-and-insight/news/global-marine-technology-trends-2030.aspx.

[93] For example, using liquefied natural gas fuels can reduce air pollutants substantially below all current and proposed emissions standards for traditionally fuelled marine diesel engines, without increasing nitrogen oxide emissions.

[94] See, e.g., IRENA, Innovation outlook: Offshore wind (2016), available at: https://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IRENA_Innovation_Outlook_Offshore_Wind_2016.pdf.

[95] For example, the WMO and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA2) are jointly promoting a Polar Challenge, announced in March 2016, with a prize of 500,000 Swiss francs to the first team able to complete a 2000km continuous mission under the sea-ice with an automated underwater vehicle (AUVs) in the Arctic or Antarctic to promote innovation towards a cost-effective, scalable and sustainable monitoring system for the polar oceans.

[96] IMO document MSC 98/23, paras. 20.1 to 20.3.

[97] The relevance was recognized in the feasibility study prepared by a High-Level Panel appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 68/224. See http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2015/10/Feasibility-Study-of-Technology-Bank.pdf and A/70/408.

[98] FAO, The state of world fisheries and aquaculture 2016, p. 38.

[99] A/CONF.210/2016/1, para. 33.

[100] SDG 14.4 "By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, [IUU] fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics."

[101] For the recommendations, see the report of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, held in New York from 23 to 27 May 2016, in document A/CONF.210/2016/2. Measures for the conservation of other species, such as marine mammals and seabirds are also being undertaken during the period under review. See contributions of ASCOBAMS, CCAMLR and CMS.

[102] These amendments, which were agreed in 2007, introduced an approach that includes safeguarding the marine environment, conserving marine biodiversity and minimizing the risk of long term adverse effects of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem. The amendments also streamline NAFO's decision-making process, strengthen the obligations of Contracting Parties, Flag States and Port States, and institute a formal dispute settlement mechanism. See also SEAFDEC contribution (e.g., regarding the Development of the Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation System).

[103] In accordance with resolution 69/109, the General Assembly undertook in 2016 a further review of the actions taken by States and RFMO/As in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, on the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary. Subsequent to this review, the Assembly adopted resolution 71/123, in which it, inter alia, welcomed the important progress made in implementation of the relevant provisions but noted with concern the uneven implementation of those provisions and that, in particular, bottom fishing continues to occur in certain areas beyond national jurisdiction without an impact assessment having been completed in the 10 years since the adoption of resolution 61/105. It adopted additional measures and decided to conduct in 2020 a further review. See also, e.g. FAO contribution, NEAFC contribution (in November 2016, NEAFC adopted a formal policy regarding the management of deep sea fish stocks).

[104] www.fao.org/fishery/psm/agreement/parties/en.

[105] FAO contribution. The parties, inter alia, agreed to hold meetings every two years along with supplementary technical meetings as required. The first meeting was held in May 2017. The Parties also agreed that a staged approach should be adopted with regards to data exchange and called for the establishment of an open-ended technical working group to provide guidance on the development of data exchange mechanisms, established the Working Group under Part 6 of the Agreement (on special requirements of developing States Parties in relation to the implementation of port State measures consistent with the Agreement and adopted its terms of reference. See http://www.fao.org/fi/static-media/MeetingDocuments/PSMA/Parties/ReportAdvanceCopy.pdf. The first meeting of that Group was held in June 2017. The Working Group recommended that "support should consider legal and policy aspects, institutional set-up and capacity, and operations and procedures". It also agreed on draft terms of reference for the funding mechanisms to assist developing States parties.

[106] NEAFC contribution.

[107] http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56551#.WZonP-kpCUk. The objective of the Guidelines is to provide assistance to States, RFMO/As, regional economic integration and other intergovernmental organisations when developing, implementing, harmonising or reviewing Catch Document Schemes to prevent fish derived from IUU fishing from entering domestic and international markets.

[108] Target 14.6 of the 2030 Agenda sets forth a commitment to "[b]y 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation".

[109] FAO contribution.

[110] See e.g. OSPAR contribution.

[111] ASCOBANS contribution.

[112] See SCBD and UNEP contributions.

[113] Adopted at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, in December 2016. SCBD contribution.

[114] See, e.g., Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, A/71/204.

[115] UNEP contribution.

[116] SCBD contribution.

[117] FAO contribution.

[118] IMO contribution. At the recent 38th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention, 1972 and 11th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, 1996, governments called for more action to address marine litter in the oceans, particularly plastics and microplastics, which are severely threatening the marine environment. Options are being considered by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention to further address microplastics and marine plastic litter under the Basel Convention. The Stockholm and Basel Conventions also created a working group to work on the impact of plastic wastes and related toxic chemicals, in particular persistent organic pollutants and endocrine disrupting chemicals that end up as marine litter.

[119] IMO and OSPAR contributions. For example, a regional action plan on marine litter in the Baltic Sea was recently agreed by members of the Baltic Sea Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). It aims to significantly reduce marine litter by 2025. OSPAR's Marine Litter Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter is continued to be implemented. As part of the Plan, dialogue has been ongoing with the cosmetics industry on the phasing out of the use of microbeads in wash off products by 2020. States Parties to OSPAR also called on the European Union to adopt legal measures to achieve a 100 per cent phasing out of microplastic particles in personal care and cosmetic products in line with action 47 of the OSPAR's Regional Action Plan.

[120] SCBD contribution, ASCOBANS contribution.

[121] Ibid.

[122] IMO contribution.

[123] SCBD contribution. The purpose of the Global Dialogue is to provide a forum for regional marine and fisheries organizations to share experience in managing marine biological resources and to reinforce cross-sectoral collaboration. The documents for the meeting are available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SOIOM-2016-01. The second Dialogue is expected to take place in 2018 preceded by an informal working group consisting of the Secretariats of the CBD, FAO and UNEP, as well as interested regional organizations. See also OSPAR and UNEP contributions.

[124] For example FAO, *Review and analysis of international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction* (http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7009e.pdf); UNEP-WCMC, *Governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use — Institutional arrangements and cross-sectoral cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean and South East Pacific* (https://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/governance-of-abnj); and Global Environment Facility Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, *Governance Challenges, Gaps and Management Opportunities in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (http://www.stapgef.org/governance-challenges-gaps-and-management-opportunities-areas-beyond-national-jurisdiction).

[125] SCBD, UNEP contributions.

[126] "Sea, My Life: Our Voyage to Marine Protected Areas"; a GEF and UNDP publication available at: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Sea%2C%20my%20life-2017.pdf It is estimated that there are approximately 14,700 marine protected areas around the world, covering an area of almost 15 million km^2 and representing a little over five percent of the oceans.

[127] SCBD contribution.

[128] Ibid.

[129] Ibid. See also OSPAR contribution.

[130] See A/RES/71/312.

[131] Ibid.

[132] With regard to the protection of the marine environment and conservation of resources, recent examples include: the MOU between the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels of 27 November 2015, and the Arrangement between CCAMLR and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation of 2 June 2017.

[133] UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that promotes cooperation, coordination and coherence of United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority' activities related to oceans and coastal areas. See www.unoceans.org.

[134] See http://www.unoceans.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unoceans/docs/UN-Oceans_statement_ICP-18_Final_to_Legal_Counsel.pdf.

[135] See A/RES/68/70, annex.

[136] The inventory which was launched in 2016 during the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, and other relevant documents are available on the UN-Oceans website at: www.unoceans.org.

[137] UN-Oceans held the following side events: (1) "Sustainable Development Goal 14: Oceans — Science-based solutions for achieving adaptation and mitigation goals", at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (Marrakesh, Morocco, 9 November 2016); (2) "Ocean in the 2030 Agenda: UN-Oceans Harbouring SDG 14", (New York, 5 June 2017); (3) (jointly with UN-Water) "Connecting Fresh Water with Salt Water: Joining Hands to Help Achieve Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 14 — A Win-win for Freshwater and Oceans", (New York, 7 June 2017); and (4) "Monitor and review SDG 14", (New York, 10 July 2017). Another UN-Oceans side event is planned to take place in the context of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017.

[138] Details of other relevant initiatives undertaken by intergovernmental organizations are provided in the contributions available on the website of the Division at www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/contributions72.htm. See particularly, the contributions from FAO, ICCAT, IHO, ILO, IMO, IMSO, IOC, OAS, OHRLLS, CBD Secretariat, SEAFDEC, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNHCR, UNODC, and WMO.

[139] See ISA contribution. Fourteen training spots have already been offered by some contractors in 2017, with four scheduled for the second half of 2017 and an additional four scheduled for 2018. As at 31 May 2017, a total of 115 scientists or government officials from 45 countries have been beneficiaries of financial support from the Endowment Fund.

[140] A list of activities is available on the website of the Division at www.un.org/depts/los/.

[141] The Training Programme on Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was launched as a partnership between the Division and the IOC, at the SAMOA Conference on Small Island Developing States, 1-4 September 2014.

[142] IOCARIBE is a regional subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). It is the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions and is responsible for the promotion, development and co-ordination of IOC marine scientific research programmes, the ocean services, and related activities, including training, education and mutual assistance (TEMA) in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.

[143] A detailed financial and substantive report on the status of the Trust Funds managed by the Division is available on the website of the Division at www.un.org/depts/los/.

[144] A/CONF.230/14.